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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

THE NOVEMBER METEORS.

Harvard College Observatory Circular No. 31.

On the night of November 13, 1897, 91 meteors were observed at the Harvard College Observatory, and 47 meteors at an auxiliary station 12 miles south, the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory. A discussion of these observations by Professor W. H. PICKERING will be found in the *Annals* of this Observatory, Volume XLI, No. 5. A much greater display of meteors is expected next year, and it is very important that a continuous watch should be kept during the two or three days in which the Earth is passing through the denser portion of the meteor stream. This can only be done by establishing a series of stations in various longitudes, so that during the entire time one or more of these stations shall fulfill the conditions that the radiant point shall be above the horizon and the Sun below. Correspondence is invited with astronomers and others willing to participate in this work, especially with those who will be in the less frequented longitudes. If the weather is favorable, and the plan here proposed is carried out satisfactorily, it is expected that all the observations will be discussed here and published in the *Annals* of this Observatory. To secure the best results, a uniform plan of work is essential. Maps and forms of record will be sent to all who early signify their readiness to take part in this work. The radiant point of the meteors indicated by the cross in the accompanying map [here omitted], will not rise in this latitude until $10^h\ 30^m$, and twilight interferes at about $5^h\ 30^m$ in the morning. As the shower sometimes begins before the predicted date, a watch should be kept on November 11 and 12, from 11 to 1 o'clock, and if many meteors are seen, the observations described below, for November 13, should be made on these nights, and also on the nights following the shower.

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Each observer is requested to devote his attention to the region within 25° of the radiant point, and included in the map, and to send the following data regarding his observations: —

Name of observer, location of station, post-office address, time of beginning and ending of observations, interruptions by clouds or other causes, condition of sky, as clear, hazy, passing clouds, etc.

The observations most desired are those required to determine the frequency of the meteors. They are of extreme simplicity, and need only care, system, and perseverance. Once an hour, or, better, once every half-hour, observe and record the time during which ten meteors appear. This is most easily done by noting the time by a watch and at exactly the beginning of a minute looking at the sky, giving it undivided attention and counting the meteors seen, not including those appearing outside the region covered by the map. If great numbers of meteors appear, it may be better to count a larger number, as twenty or even fifty. If the interval between the meteors is long, the number to be counted may be reduced. These observations should be repeated until dawn, or over as long an interval as possible. Between these observations, the observer may rest, or may make special observations of individual meteors. Thus, when a meteor is seen, record the hour and minute, the brightness on a scale of stellar magnitudes, —2, equals the brightness of *Jupiter*, or *Sirius;* 0, *Arcturus*, or *Vega;* 2, the *Pole-Star;* 4, the *Pleiades;* 6, the faintest star visible; the color, B=blue, G=green, Y = yellow, W = white, and R = red; the class, L=*Leonid*, if path prolonged would pass through center of map, N = other meteors. Thus, L 5 Y, $12^h\ 26^m$, indicates that a *Leonid*, magnitude 5, yellow in color, was seen at $12^h\ 26^m$. Find by trial beforehand how many seconds are required to make each record. Again, the path of each meteor may be marked upon the map by noting its position in relation to the adjacent stars. Such work can be done equally well elsewhere, and should not interfere with the hourly count mentioned above.

EDWARD C. PICKERING.

May 30, 1898.